



## California's Marine Life Management Act

*The act's overriding goal is to...*

*Ensure the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of California's living marine resources, including the conservation of healthy and diverse marine ecosystems.*

The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA):

- Became law in 1998.
- In 1999, the state provided \$5.2 million to fund the program.
- Applies to all living marine species found along state's 1,100 miles of coast.
- Applies to all state managed marine fisheries (recreational and commercial).

MLMA calls for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to take several actions, including:

- The transfer of management authority of several fisheries from the state Legislature to the DFG.
- Development of a master plan that will guide management plans aimed at restoring declining fish populations as designed under the MLMA.
- Development of a plan for dealing with emerging fisheries as they become operational.
- Fish and Game Commission adoption of DFG management plans for the white seabass and nearshore fisheries by Jan. 1, 2002.

The MLMA Program for Managing Marine Fisheries:

- Requires evaluating the effectiveness of existing programs.
- Requires DFG to utilize the best scientific data available, and to engage the public in the process of developing management plans.
- Requires DFG to prepare the Annual Status of California's Fisheries Report. The first report will be available to the public in January 2002. Subsequently, reports will cover a quarter of all marine and estuary fisheries managed by the state.

A Collaborative Effort Between:

- Department of Fish and Game
- California Sea Grant Extension Program
- University of California/California State University
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Private scientific community
- Constituent advisory committees
- Improved constituent involvement as mandated by the MLMA

DFG Marine Enforcement: *"Make A Difference"*

- Work with recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, and the general public.
- DFG patrols more than 250,000 square miles of ocean.
- State waters occur from coastline to up to three miles out to sea.
- 57 marine patrol enforcement positions; five new marine patrol boats.